Coastal Impact Assistance Program
Grant Proposal

Project Title: Bay Champagne Sand Fencing, Phase 1

Entity Nominating Project: Caillouet Land Corporation (CLC)

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Total CIAP Funds Requested: $16,956

Infrastructure Funds Proposed: 0

Description and Location of Project: The project consists of the construction of two thousand (2,000) linear ft of sand fences on a beach adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico. The fences would be constructed to the sand fence specifications currently used by the LDNR (See Exhibit A). Four in by four in timbers, eight ft in length, would be driven approximately three and a half ft into the ground. Rolls of pre-fabricated, four ft snow fencing would be installed between the four by four timbers. All hardware used to connect the fencing to the timbers would be per LDNR specification. The proposed budget is depicted in Exhibit B.

The objective of the project is to erect fences that will accrete sand and ultimately restore sand dunes at a beach location. The project would help to stabilize the area and the accreted sand would provide a limited, but improved means of providing a sediment supply for re-nourishing the fore and back beach areas. The accreted sand would restore diversity and habitat for dune dependent flora and fauna. The new flora would further aid the stabilization and retention of the sand. Native sand dune vegetation would be restored and the new vegetation and small change in topography would provide nesting, foraging, and watering grounds for a wide range of birds, mammals, reptiles, and lower order organisms. Threatened and endangered species that would benefit from this project include the Piping Plover *(Charadrius melodus)* and Loggerhead Sea Turtle *(Caretta caretta)*.

The project area is located on a tract owned by the CLC near Port Fourchon. More formally, the project is described as being located in Sec. T-22-S, R-23-E, Lafourche Parish, LA. The location of the project is depicted in Exhibit C.

Phase 2 of this project, consisting of vegetative plantings, is not being proposed at the current time. Contingent on this project being approved, funding for Phase 2 may be sought during a subsequent year of CIAP project nominations if it is

determined that the natural colonization of plants is lacking and supplemental planting of suitable species is a needed measure.

Project Type: Conservation, restoration, and protection of unique and limited coastal habitat (restoration of sand dunes lost during 2002 hurricane season).

Project Justification: A number of sand fence projects have been constructed throughout coastal Louisiana under the auspices of the LDNR and coastal restoration programs.

Project cost share: The CLC's in-kind match includes use and maintenance of existing regulatory approvals and project coordination and reporting to the LDNR.

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Is the proposed project free of issues that may impact timely implementation of the project features? Yes. The CLC currently possesses the necessary regulatory authorizations for a sand fence project from the LDNR (P20030809) and U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (CV-20-020-2760).

Is the proposed project linked to a regional strategy for maintaining established landscape features critical to sustainable ecosystem structure and function? Yes. The project is one of many coastal restoration and compensatory wetland mitigation projects that have been implemented by public and private funding at Fourchon.

Does the proposed project protect health and safety or infrastructure of national, state, regional, or local significance? Yes. The dunes would provide a line of defense for existing infrastructure at Port Fourchon from storm events.

How cost effective is the proposed project? Compared to other coastal habitat conservation, protection, and restoration measures, sand fences are extremely simple, economical, and cost effective.

What is the certainty of benefits resulting from implementation of the proposed project? Exercising its rights as a landowner, the CLC closed off its beach to vehicular access in 1998. Amid much controversy, the CLC stood its ground, but never at any time denied public pedestrian access. The beach was closed for the following reasons: (1) vehicles were damaging existing sand dunes and vegetation, (2) voluminous amounts of litter left by public, and (3) overall disregard for CLC property. By closing its privately owned beach to vehicles, CLC effectively closed Wisner's beach to the east, which stretched for some three and a half miles in a northeasterly direction to Bayou Thunder, formerly a natural cut in the beach. The closure of this beach and dune area to high volume vehicular usage enabled the dunes to naturally re-vegetate and provided peaceful nesting and foraging grounds for a wide range of avian species including the Piping Plover. This natural dune restoration process was enhanced with implementation of two sand dune fencing projects privately financed by CLC. In both projects, the fences created dunes, but unfortunately the dunes created by both projects were lost to tropical storm events. There is an enormous difference in the natural condition of beach habitat between the areas to the west (which are subjected to high vehicular and pedestrian use) and to the east (where human traffic is extremely low use).

Based on the results of the two previous sand fence projects and CLC's continued policy to restrict vehicular access, successful results and benefits would be expected through the implementation of this project.

Does the proposed project address an area of critical conservation/restoration need or a high land loss area? It is generally accepted that the Fourchon headland has one of the highest landward migration rates in the continental United States. While the scope and objective of this project do not purport to arrest the beach migration phenomenon, the project would provide a new sand source and habitat improvements for flora and fauna.

How sustainable are the benefits of the proposed project? As with all of the sand fence projects that have been constructed located along Louisiana's coast, the project and its benefits are susceptible to damage or loss resulting from a major storm event.

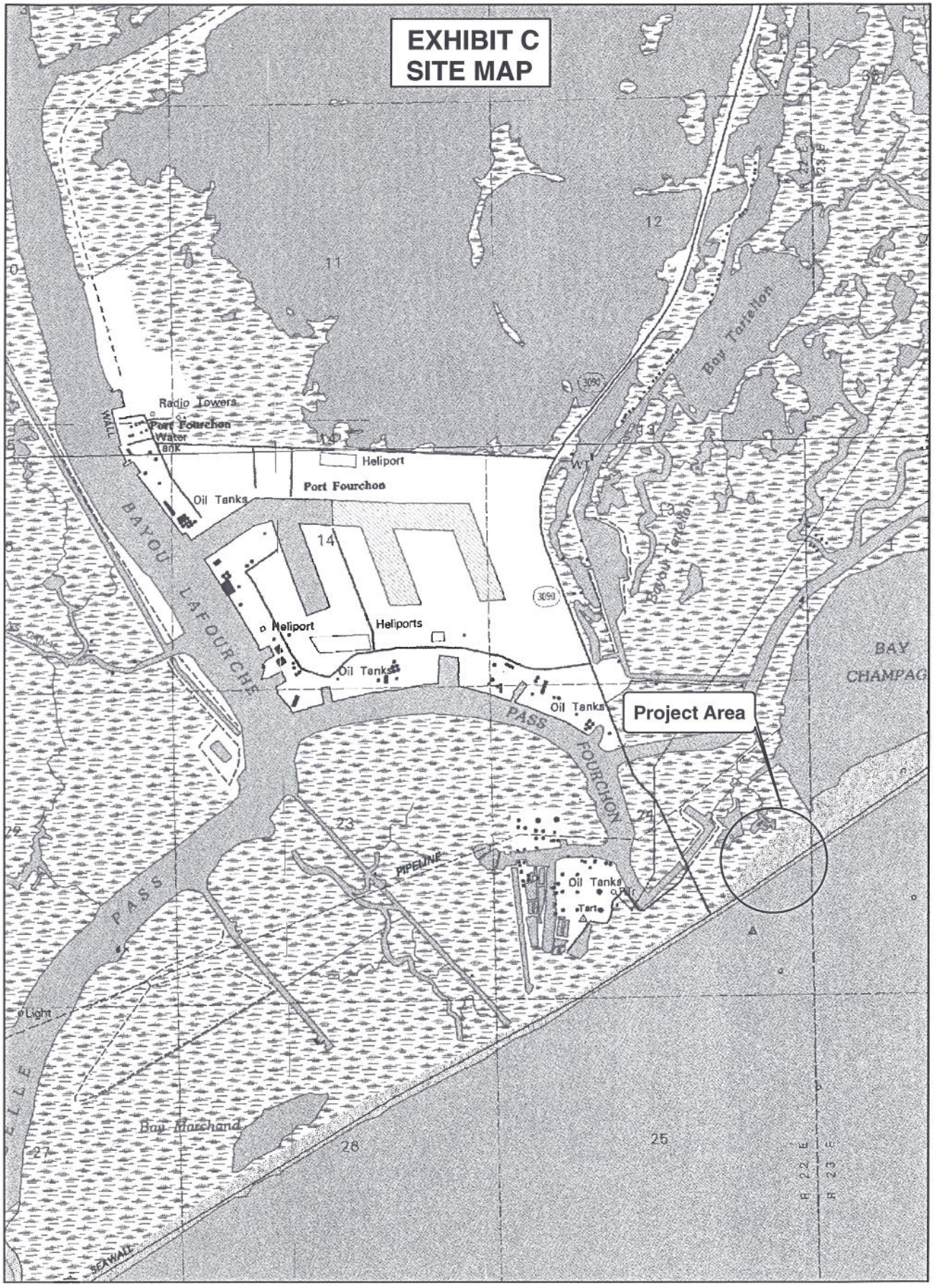
EXHIBIT C
SITE MAP
Radio Towers
Port Fourchon
Water
Tank
Heliport
Port Fourchon
Oil Tanks
BAYOU LAFOURCHE
Heliport
Heliports
Oil Tanks
Oil Tanks
Project Area
PASS FOURCHON
PIPELINE
Oil Tanks
Light
PASS
Bay Marchand
SEAWALL
Bay Tarleton
Bayou Tarleton
BAY
CHAMPAG
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